Project I.D. No. 546

NAME: UNO, OSAKO DATE OF BIRTH: 1894 PLACE OF BIRTH: OKAYAMA
Age: 77 Sex: F Marital Status: W Education: WOMEN'S COLLEGE

PRE-WAR: (MARRIED SOMETIME AFTER ARRIVAL) *
Date of arrival in U.S.: 1922 Age: 28 M.S. S Port of entry: SAN FRANCISCO
Occupation/s: 1. SALES-DRY GOODS 2. JAPANESE TEACHER 3. _____
Place of residence: 1. SAN FRANCISCO 2. EL MONTE, CA 3. _____
Religious affiliation: UNITARIAN
Community organizations/activities: JAPANESE ASSOC.

EVACUATION:
Name of assembly center: POMONA
Name of relocation center: HEART MTN
Dispensation of property: LEFT IN CHURCH Names of bank/s: CORPORATE RTHS OF ASSOC HELPED
Jobs held in camp: 1. SEWING MACHINES 2. MESS HALL HELPER
Jobs held outside of camp: _____
Left camp to go to: 1945 OGDEN, UT
HUSBAND DIED IN CAMP - SHE BECAME A BREAD WINNER

POST-WAR:
Date returned to West Coast: REMAINED IN UTAH
Address/es: 1. SALT LAKE 2. _____
3. _____
Religious affiliation: _____
Activities: 1 DORMITORY HOUSEKEEPER. _____ 3. _____
If deceased, date, place and age at time of death: _____

Name of interviewer: KATO Date: 1971 Place: SALT LAKE
Translator KATO

* PLANNED TO ATTEND COLUMBIA U., BECOME PROF.

#5-6

A STUDY OF PERSONAL EXPERIENCE OF ISSEIS IN THE USA

I. IN JAPAN

MRS OSAKO UNO. I WAS BORN AT KAGAMI MACHI, TA-GUN, OKAYAMA ON MARCH 1, 27TH YEAR OF MEIJI.

SINO-JAPANESE WAR - NO RECOLLECTION.

RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR - I REMEMBER WHENEVER JAPANESE SOLDIERS WHO WERE GOING TO THE FRONT LIN E OF BATTLE PASSED OUR SCHOOL, ALL STUDENTS, EVEN WHEN WE WERE IN CLASS, WENT OUTSIDE IMMEDIATELY WITH "HINOMARU" FLAGS WAVING AND SHOUTED LOUDLY, "BANZAI, BANZAI."

WORLD WAR I - I WAS A STUDENT IN TOKYO AND DIDN'T THINK MUCH ABOUT IT.

MANCHURIAN EVENT - I WAS DEEPLY IMPRESSED BY THE MIGHTY FORCE OF JAPAN AND WISHED JAPAN GOOD LUCK.

HAPPY EVENTS - THROUGHOUT MY STUDENT LIFE - ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, THE GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL AND THE WOMEN'S COLLEGE.

SAD EVENTS - I SUFFERED FROM CONSUMPTION SINCE THE END OF THE FIRST QUARTER OF THE LAST YEAR AT THE WOMEN'S COLLEGE, AND WAS HOSPITALIZED DURING THE SECOND AND THIRD QUARTERS. DUE TO THIS I COULD NEITHER WRITE MY GRADUATING THESIS NOR TAKE THE EXAMINATION, NOR DID I HAVE ENOUGH DAYS IN ATTENDANCE. ON THE DAY OF GRADUATION, I WAS ON A BOAT WITH MY NURSE ON WUMAIRI RIVER BY NANKO-IN, SHOSHYU. THIS WAS MY SAD EVENT.

I WAS DEEPLY IMPRESSED AND I CANNOT FORGET WHEN MY CLOSE FRIEND, WHO WAS A REPRESENTATIVE OF ALL STUDENTS ON GRADUATION DAY, VISITED ME AT THE HOSPITAL WITH MY DIPLOMA. NEXT DAY AFTER GRADUATION SHE BROUGHT ME MANY FOODS AND TOGETHER WE HELD OUR DIPLOMAS AND WEPT.

I CAME TO AMERICA JUST ONE YEAR BEFORE THE KANTO GREAT EARTHQUAKE.

MY FAMILY'S REGIGION IS SHINGON-SHYU.

I WAS BAPTIZED AT THE UNITARIAN CHURCH, SHIBA. THE VISITORS TO THE CHURCH USED TO REMARK THAT IT LOOKED LIKE A SCHOOL BECAUSE THERE WERE SO MANY STUDENTS THERE.

WE RAN A WINE SHOP. MY ELDEST BROTHER ATTENDED THE WASEDA UNIVERSITY, AND MY YOUNGEST BROTHER ATTENDED THE AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY; MY YOUNGER SISTER, AS

WELL AS I, ATTENDED THE JAPANESE GIRLS' COLLEGE. WE WERE BROUGHT UP HAPPILY AS CHILDREN OF A VILLAGE LANDLORD AND WE DID NOT HAVE ANY FINANCIAL WORRIES.

JAPAN WAS AT PEACE AND PROSPEROUS AS IF THE SUN WAS RISING.

I MAJORED IN HOME ECONOMICS AT THE JAPANESE GIRLS' COLLEGE IN TOKYO AND GRADUATED 12TH. I INTENDED TO STUDY AT THE COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

II. ON THE SHIP.

I LEET JAPAN ON AUGUST 5, 1922, AND ARRIVED IN AMERICA ON AUGUST 29, 1922, BY WAY OF HAWAII. I WAS AMAZED TO SEE IN HAWAII JAPANESE WOMEN WEARING KIMONO WITH "OTAIKO-OBI", AND RATTLING DOWN THE STREET IN THEIR GETA WITH NAKED FEET. WHEN WE ENTERED A RESTAURANT, I WAS STARTLED TO SEE A GIRL PLAYING IN HER KIMONO WITH SHIBORITSUKE.

THERE WERE MR ICHIZAEMON MORIMURA'S SON, WHO WAS A SECOND GENERATION, MR ARAI, MR HORIKOSHI OF THE SILVER THREAD SHOP, MR SUSUMU NAKAMURA, PROFESSOR-OF-LOW AT THE WASEDA UNIVERSITY AND THE WOMEN'S COLLEGE AND LABORERS ON THE SHIP.

THE KOREA-MARU OF THE NIHON MAIL STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

ONE EVENING DURING A LECTURE MEETING, MR ARAI TOLD US THAT THIS WAS HIS 80TH VOYAGE, BUT IT WAS THE QUIETEST VOYAGE, AND MR HORIKOSHI SAID THAT THIS WAS HIS 50TH VOYAGE. THIS SET ME THINKING HOW CLOSE JAPAN IS TO AMERICA AND I PLANNED TO RETURN TO JAPAN EVERY YEAR FOR VACATION, BUT I HAVE NEVER GONE BACK TO JAPAN FOR FIFTY YEARS. PEOPLE WHO CAME TO AMERICAN TO EARN MONEY COULD RETURN HOME VERY RICH AND SUCCESSFUL, HOWEVER, FOR ME, I DARED NOT RETURN HOME WITHOUT SUCCESSFUL ACCOMPLISHMENT OF STUDY. MOREOVER, SINCE MY PARENTS HAVE PASSED AWAY, I HAVE NO DESIRE TO GO BACK TO JAPAN. IF MY PARENTS WERE ALIVE, I WANT TO RETURN HOME IF ONLY TO SAY ONE WORD, "THANK YOU."

I THOUGHT THAT AMERICA WAS A PROSPEROUS COUNTRY.

I EXPECTED TO BE A PROFESSOR OF MY ALMA MATER AFTER I GRADUATED FROM AN AMERICAN UNIVERSITY.

III. FIRST IMPRESSION OF AMERICA

BEFORE I LANDED, I MET AN IMMIGRATION OFFICER IN THE ROOM OF THE HEAD ENGINEERS OF OUR SHIP WHO TOLD ME HE WOULD INSPECT MY BAGGAGES. BECAUSE OF THE LATE ARRIVAL OF MY BAGGAGES, ANOTHER IMMIGRATION OFFICER INSPECTED AND I WAS CHARGED A HIGHER TAX FOR MY SILK MATERIALS. LATER, WHEN THE HEAD ENGINEER ASKED ME ABOUT THE CUSTOM INSPECTION, I COMPLAINED TO HIM ABOUT IT, BUT HE TOLD ME THAT IT WAS ONE OF THOSE MISFORTUNES, AND THAT AMERICA WAS A GOOD COUNTRY TO LIVE.

I STAYED AT THE HOME OF MR SAITO, WHO WAS THE SECRETARY OF THE SAN FRANCISCO JAPANESE ASSOCIATION ON THE FIRST DAY. MAKOTO-SAN SERVED US CHIRASHI-ZUSHI ON A WHITE HARDWARE. I WAS AMAZED FOR SUCH A HARDWARE IS USED FOR WASHING FACE IN JAPAN (THOUGH THE SHAPE WAS DIFFERENT). I COULD NOT EAT THE CHIRASHI-ZUSHI COMFORTABLY BECAUSE I FELT THAT IMMIGRANTS LED MISERABLE LIVES.

IN THE MORNINGS I STUDIED ENGLISH UNDER A PRIVATE AMERICAN LADY TUTOR AND IN THE AFTERNOONS I HELPED MY AUNT'S DRY GOODS SHOP (KIMONO HOUSE OPERATED BY MY AUNT FOR THE AMERICANS) IN ORDER TO IMPROVE MY ENGLISH CONVERSATION.

MOST OF THE CAUCASIANS WERE PLEASANT PEOPLE AND TREATED ME KINDLY.

IV. SETTLEMENT

I BECAME ACQUAINTED WITH A CLERK WHO WAS SENT TO MY AUNT'S SHOP FROM DOHON INCORPORATION OF SAN FRANCISCO AND WE WERE MARRIED. AT THE OGDEN CHURCH, AMERICAN STYLE WEDDING CEREMONY.

I DESIRED TO LIVE IN AN AMERICAN FAMILY HOME TO GAIN EXPERIENCE, BUT I WAS VERY SORRY FOR MY AUNT WOULD NOT ALLOW ME TO LIVE IN A HOME.

I HAVE NEVER BEEN HOME SICK AND I DID NOT EXPERIENCE ANY DISCRIMINATION. I LEARNED ENGLISH BY ATTENDING NATURALIZATION SCHOOL.

MY SALARY WAS $100 AS A CLERK OF A SHOP.

BECAUSE I LIVED WITH MY AUNT, I DID NOT BUY A HOUSE.

I PLAYED TENNIS BEFORE MY MARRIAGE AND LATER I ENJOYED FISHING.

I DESIRED TO HAVE MY CHILDREN ATTAIN THE HIGHEST EDUCATION AS I HAD. BECAUSE OF MY HUSBAND'S EARLY DEATH IN CAMP, I WORKED FOR FOURTEEN YEARS AT THE ESTAR HALL WHICH WAS A DORMITORY FOR THE WORKING WOMEN AND WAS OPERATED BY THE METHODIST CHURCH. DURING THIS PERIOD MY CHILDREN GRADUATED FROM THE UNIVERSITIES. I DID NOT SEND MY CHILDREN TO JAPAN.

BEFORE WORLD WAR II, I BECAME A JAPANESE SCHOOL TEACHER. IT WAS NECESSARY FOR ME TO BE A TEACHER, BUT THERE WERE MANY DIFFICULTIES.

MY ELDEST BROTHER'S FRIEND WHO WORKED AT THE WASEDA UNIVERSITY IN JAPAN WAS AN EARNEST CHRISTIAN. HE ENCOURAGED MY ELDER-SISTER AND I TO ATTEND CHURCH AND FINALLY WE WERE BAPTIZED.

V. DEPRESSION PERIOD.

MY AUNT CLOSED HER SHOP, BANKAYA STORE, AND WITH THE HELP OF A CORPORATION LAWYER, IT BECAME MY PROPERTY AND WAS NAMED STAR STORE, BUT I WAS FORCED TO CLOSE THE STORE DUE TO DEPRESSION.

I DECIDED TO STAY HERE PERMANENTLY AFTER MARRIAGE.

VI. THE WORLD WAR II

THEN MY HUSBAND WAS A SECRETARY OF THE JAPANESE ASSOCIATION IN ELMONTE, CALIF. PERSONALLY SPEAKING, OUR NEIGHBORS, PEOPLE WHO LIVED IN THE SAME TOWN, PEOPLE WHO WORKED FOR THE GOVERNMENT WERE VERY KIND TO US.

ALTHOUGH WE KNEW SOMETHING WOULD HAPPEN, IT WAS A BIG SURPRISE. BECAUSE MY HUSBAND WAS THE SECRETARY OF THE JAPANESE ASSOCIATION, WE HAD ACCESS TO NEWS.

I DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO THINK ABOUT OUR PERSONAL PROBLEMS BECAUSE WE HELPED OUR OFFICE STAFF WITH THEIR MANAGEMENT OF RICE FIELDS, VEGETABLE FIELDS HOUSES AND BANKING PROBLEMS. AS TO OUR PERSONAL PROBLEMS, A CORPORATION LAWYER OF THE JAPANESE ASSOCIATION MANAGED EVERYTHING WELL FOR US WHILE WE WERE IN THE RELOCATION CAMP. BECAUSE MY HUSBAND WAS ASKED TO HELP OPEN THE ASSEMBLY CENTER, HE, WITH FIFTY YOUTHS FROM SAN GABLE Gabriel WENT THERE BEFOREHAND. WITH THE HELP OF

FOUR FRIENDS OF THE JAPANESE CHURCH, WE WERE ABLE TO SEND THE PIANO OF THE CHURCH AND OUR PERSONAL BELONGINGS ON THE TRUCKS WITH THEM. MANY FRIENDS ADMIRED OUR SWIFT ACTION.

THE HEAD OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT, WHO LIVED IN FRONT OF OUR HOUSE, USED TO TAKE OUR CHILDREN SWIMMING MANY TIMES AND ON THE MORNING OF OUR DEPARTURE TO CAMP, HE INVITED US FOR BREAKFAST. ALSO HE OFFERED US THE USE OF HIS CAR. WHEN WE CAME HOME FROM HIS HOUSE AFTER BREAKFAST, WE FOUND A NICE CAR PARKED IN FRONT OF OUR HOUSE. IT WAS THE CORPORATION LAWYER'S CAR AND HE DROVE US TO THE ASSEMBLY CENTER. ON OUR WAY, HE CONSOLED US SAYING THAT SINCE WE JAPANESE WORKED SO HARD THIS WAS A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO REST. I HAVE NEVER FORGOTTEN THOSE KIND WORDS. THE POST MASTER ALSO INVITED US TO BID FAREWELL. THUS, EVERYBODY WAS VERY KIND TO US. WE ENTRUSTED ALL OUR PROBLEMS TO THE CORPORATION LAWYER.

MY ELDEST SON - 15 YEARS OLD; ELDEST DAUGHTER - 13 YEARS OLD, SECOND DAUGHTER - 12 YEARS OLD.

VII. ASSEMBLY CENTER, RELOCATION CENTER

WE WERE TAKEN TO THE HEARTMOUNTAIN ASSEMBLY CENTER. I THOUGHT THE CONDITION OF THE CAMP WAS RATHER GOOD. MY HUSBAND DIED OF A HEART ATTACK HALF A YEAR AFTER WE MOVED FROM THE HEARTMOUNTAIN ASSEMBLY CENTER TO THE POMONA ASSEMBLY CENTER.

I DO NOT WANT TO ANSWER THIS QUESTION.

SINCE WE WERE JAPANESE, WE HAD NO OTHER CHOICE - WE WERE AT WAR.

I DIDN'T THINK OF IT MUCH BECAUSE MY CHILDREN WERE YOUNG THEN.

IN CAMP, I LEARNED SEWING AND ARTIFICIAL FLOWER MAKING. I ALSO ENJOYED WATCHING BASEBALL. I WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SEWING MACHINES IN OUR SEWING ROOM AND I ALSO HELPED AT THE MESS HALL.

I ATTENDED THE SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES, BUT IT WAS LONELY RELIGIOUSLY BECAUSE WE DIDN'T HAVE ANY HOME MEETINGS OR MEETINGS SIMILAR TO THAT.

MY CHILDREN ATTENDED THE SCHOOL IN THE ASSEMBLY CENTER AND ALSO JOINED THE

THE BOY SCOUT GROUP.

I REMEMBER IT AS A COLLABORATED LIFE.

MY FAITH DID NOT CHANGE TO ANY EXTENT.

VIII. RESETTLEMENT - RECONSTRUCTION

I LEFT THE CAMP AS SOON AS THE WAR WAS OVER. SINCE MY ELDEST SON WAS WORKING AS A SCHOOL BOY WHILE ATTENDING HIGH SCHOOL, I LEFT CAMP TO TAKE CARE OF HIM. WITH THE HELP OF MRS CHAPMAN OF THE ESTER HALL/ DORMITORY WE MOVED TO OGDEN WHERE MY AUNT LIVED. AS A HOUSEKEEPER WAS NEEDED AT THE DORMITORY, I WAS EMPLOYED THERE.

AT FIRST I WENT TO WORK AT THE ESTER- HALL, WHICH WAS A GIRLS' DORMITORY - FOR COLLEGE GIRLS OR CAREER LADIES - OPERATED BY THE METHODIST CHURCH. I COOKED AND TOOK CARE OF YOUNG COLLEGE GIRLS. PEOPLE AT THE METHODIST CHURCH WERE VERY KIND TO US.

I DEVOTED MY LIFE SO MY CHILDREN CAN HAVE THE BENEFIT OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND RAISED THEM SO THEY WILL GROW UP TO BE MATURE AND RESPONSIBLE PERSONS.

BECAUSE JAPANESE IN UTAH WERE NOT RELOCATED, THE OGDEN CHURCH WAS ESTABLISHED AND WE ENJOYED FELLOWSHIP WITH THOSE CHRISTIANS FROM CALIFORNIA.

REV HECKMAN FOUND A HOUSE AND A JOB FOR ME.

MY MOST DIFFICULT EXPERIENCE WAS THE FACT THAT THE CHILDREN HAD NO FATHER WHILE THEY WERE GROWING UP.

IX. CONCLUSION

I HOPE TO LEAD AND CONDUCT MYSELF IN AN IDEAL CHRISTIAN WAY. I ALSO WANT TO SERVE THE CHURCH AND SOCIETY; FOR EXAMPLE, SUCH AS THE ISSEI CENTER, WHICH IS AN EXPERIMENTAL GATHERING OF FIRST GENERATION JAPANESE.

THE CIVIC ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK RECENTLY HAD A CELEBRATION FOR ITS OLDEST MEMBER IN AMERICA. THE PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION, MR ARAI, IS THE SON OF SR MR ARAI WHO WAS OWNER OF MORIMURA AND ARAI INCORPORATION AND ALSO WAS MY TRAVELING COMPANION WHEN I CAME TO AMERICA. MY SON IS THE PRESIDENT OF THE CIVIC ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, AND AS HE PRESENTED A REMEMBRANCE TO THE OLDEST MEMBER, HE TALKED ABOUT

THE EVENTS OF PAST FIFTY YEARS AND CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT PERHAPS IN THE FUTURE HIS MOTHER, WHO IS SEVENTY-SIX YEARS OLD, MIGHT BECOME THE OLDEST MEMBER. BY THIS EVENT, I REALLY FELT THAT THIS IS A SMALL WORLD.